

Mouth of the River

Issue 1

A Publication of the ORHS Journalism Class

November 18, 1994

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Durham Ambulance Corps aid victim of bike accident.

O.R. Experiencing Outbreak of Fights

by Hannibal Handy-Goodloe

Although there have been no fights yet this year on ORHS grounds, there have been fights which have taken place off of school grounds that included ORHS students as participants and as spectators. These fights have been happening for years, but this is the first year that both the police and the ORHS administration got involved. The most recent incident took place at Jackson's Landing.

A letter was sent home that was signed by both Ms. Brown and Captain Golding to almost all of the students who were spectators at the fight. This letter stated that on September 29th, administrators and teachers "began hearing rumors of a fight after school." Ms. Brown said that students from another school where here at around 2:10 pm and called the police. She "was able to convince these students to leave" before the police arrived.

According to the letter, Ms.

Winterbottom, Ms. Brown, Captain Golding and Sergeant McGann "separated the unruly crowd" that formed as soon as school was dismissed. After finding out that these four people were here to stop the fight, students "crowded into cars" that were being driven "recklessly" and "careened out of the parking lot," said the Brown/Golding letter. The fight eventually taking place at Jackson's Landing where "two students faught briefly until several police cruisers arrived." The two fighters escaped into the woods "leaving a disappointed crowd of between 75-90 students." The letter also stated that the school day was "disrupted by fight rumors," although some teachers did not even know about the fight until the next day.

The letter also said that the crowd at Jackson's landing "was close to being out of control" and the student named in the letter was "guilty" of using "poor judg-

ment."

Junior Chris Mosely gave for his reason for attending the fight that "everybody else was going. It was something to do." When asked if the fight was entertaining, another student responded by saying "Yeah, it would have been a great party."

Senior Scott Spielman, said he was on his way to the fight when the car he was in got pulled over by the Durham police. According to Scott, the police officer had the driver get out of the car where he yelled at him and tried to intimidate the him by asking him where the fight was and shouting things like "Are you looking for a fight? I'll give you a fight!" Scott added that while this was going on, Ms. Brown watched from a police cruiser. When asked why he went to the fight, Scott responded by saying "Fights are cool."

The land where the fight took place is owned by the parents of

Biker Hit on Bagdad

by Brian Cartier

On the morning of October 26, a collision occurred at Oyster River High School, involving a seventeen year old bicyclist, senior Steve Shackford, and a car driven by a Durham resident. This is the second similar accident for Shackford within the last year.

Shackford was riding his bike to school near the intersection of Bagdad road and Coe Drive when he was clipped by the car. The driver, who shall remain nameless, is the mother of another student attending Oyster River. According to Mrs. Pomerleau, a drive-by witness to the accident and first teacher on the scene, the driver is "a responsible person" who seemed to be driving carefully.

Jim Drake, a member of the

Durham Police Explorers was on the scene and helped the ambulance and police. He said, "I heard the squeak from Steve's brakes, and then I heard the bike hit the car. I ran over and from my observations, Steve looked to be more stunned than hurt; no visible injuries."

Steve asked Jim to call an ambulance. Mr Shapiro was informed and went to call the ambulance while Jim stayed at the scene. Steve Shackford was taken to Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, where he was later released serious injuries.

Ms. Brown comments, "I hope he's going to start wearing a helmet now."



(From left to right) Emily Grace, Bill Glasier, Ariannne Conley, Sarah Newkirk, perform in "Country Gothic"

Drama Season Begins With Two One-Act Plays

by Sarah Varney

The Senior-directed plays, "Suicide in Bb" and "Country Gothic", were a big hit this year. With some new faces included in the casts, these two plays brought drama, suspense, music and lots of laughter to playgoers.

The first play of the evening was the hour-long, "Suicide in Bb" directed by first time director Lindsay Oakes and Roger LaMarque, who has had some directing experience.

The play told the story of a musician named Niles (Cara Campbell) who had multiple personalities. Niles was trying to kill off all of his other personalities so he could comfortably live his own life. The rest of the cast spends their time discussing Niles and how they all knew him while two police detectives struggle to unlock the truth of his disappearance. The play deals with the struggle we go through in the modern world to determine and preserve our own identity in a world that tends to label us.

Despite a last-minute cast change on Friday's performance, in which director Roger

LaMarque was chosen to fill in for original cast member, Ian McGarty, who had fallen ill, the production seemed to go very smoothly.

Senior Melanie Chase, who attended both plays said, "Suicide in B Flat" kind of confused me, but overall, the acting was very impressive." The cast included Josh Orkin as Louis, Greg Evans as Pablo, Ian McGarty as Petrone, Robyn Jerard as Laureen, Cara Campbell as Niles, Jeanne Celentano as Paulette and Chris Davis as the silent pianist.

The second play of the evening was the very humorous, "Country Gothic", directed by first time directors Rick Tappan and Abby Smith. This was the tale of a sophisticated young man named Albert (Pierce Woodward), who arrives in a hick town to get married.

Later on, Albert discovers that the entire town had a plan to trap him into keeping the apple harvest plentiful by offering up an 8-year-old each year as a human sacrifice.



(from left to right) Roger LaMarque, Josh Orkin, and Greg Evans; perform in "Suicide in Bb".

O.R. District Under Fire from C.D.O.R.E.

By Mike Beland

Frustrated over what they see as unreasonably high school property taxes, a group of local residents has formed a coalition for change.

This group, called Citizens for Democracy in Oyster River Education (CDORE), has begun to share its opinions with the school board and with the voters through mass mailings.

CDORE members are concerned with the high costs of education in the ORSD, but they also want to make sure that these high costs accompany high academic achievement.

CDORE recently sent out newsletters to the residents of the ORSD with their concerns of the group. A lot of emphasis was placed upon how the school board is listening to the voters of the district, the school population figures presented by the board, and their feelings on a better voting system for the annual school district meeting. They want to allow voters to cast a ballot voting a budget increase or decrease without having to attend the evening district meeting in March.

Anne Whittenbury, the community spokesperson for CDORE, became involved with the organization because she was disturbed with the amount of money being spent by the taxpayers, and with these high costs, she did not see the expected outstanding results in regards on the SAT.



Mike Beland interviews Anne Whittenbury

She said that the group would like to see that the money being put in per pupil to be worth it. So with these high the costs, the students should be doing better.

She does say that there are no partisans of either political party on the committee and that it is a coalition of taxpayers who want better academic results for these high budget costs.

Anne Whittenbury, the community spokesperson for CDORE, became involved with the organization because she was disturbed with the amount of money being spent by the taxpayers...

Ms. Whittenbury stated the goals for the group were to insure that the education and discipline improve within the Oyster River Schools.

CDORE also accuses the school board of misleading statistics on enrollment in order to justify the high costs. In a section

of the newsletter, CDORE presented a correction in regards to the total enrollment this year. The school board said that there would be a much larger amount, but instead there has only been a 5% increase.

Alleged figures published by the school board in the newsletter, which CDORE claim are misleading, are very disturbing to the group. They feel that the school board should present to the community proper figures and give the unbiased truth. They feel that this would bring forth what this community needs—a better working relationship between the citizens of the district and the school board.

CDORE feels that this would occur if there was more time at school board meetings for the questions to be asked by the citizens.

O. R. District Claims Record of Achievement

By Heather Peterson

In recent years many groups and individuals within the Oyster River School District have criticized the costs of education, but now some groups are also criticizing the educational quality provided in the district. These accusations are being made by a group called Citizens for Democracy in Oyster River Education (CDORE).

In recent publications, CDORE has referred to the statistics of various test results and alleges that Oyster River has lower performance scores than many other NH schools. For instance, CDORE wrote that, "According to the most recent battery administered to New Hampshire tenth graders (1992), Laconia out-performed Oyster River in virtually every academic category."

Dr. Albert Elwell, the assistant superintendent, said he did not know what statistics CDORE was referring to, but in the 1993 test results, he comments, "We're way ahead of Laconia."

CDORE also raises other

issues such as: "If we are getting quality education for our money then why do we face facts such as...the district [being] under discipline by the Federal Government for failing to provide a learning environment free of sexual harassment?"

Dr. Elwell denied that O.R. was under federal discipline commenting, "We've met all standards set by the government on sexual harassment."

CDORE also claims that Oyster River's S.A.T. scores are weaker than they should be, but in the last four years, the average scores for seniors are

470 on verbal, and 526 on mathematics, for the S.A.T. New Hampshire's averages are 438 on verbal and 486 on mathematics. Oyster River has done better than the state average and for the last twenty years ORHS has exceeded the national average.

Students included in these averages for the S.A.T. scores belong to public and private schools, including Phillips Exeter Academy, St. Paul's, and other prestigious schools.

"It's unfair to contrast com-

Stats Cont. on page 6

O.R. Teacher Finishes in Top 10% in Ironman Competition

by Mike Markee

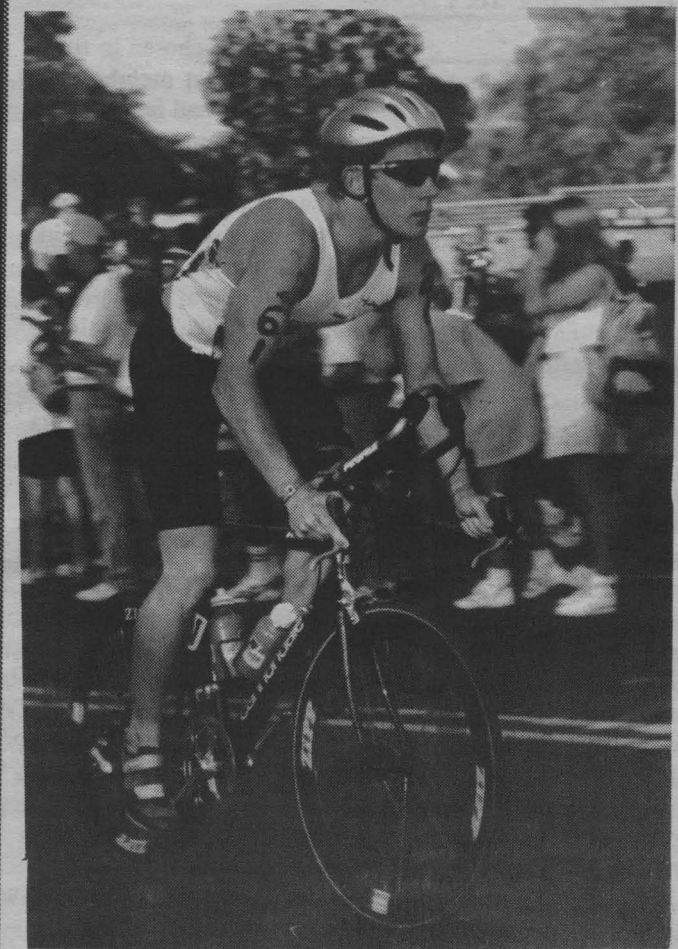
A lone swimmer slowly makes his way to the beach. Exhausted, he clambers out of the waters after a grueling 2.4 mile swim. Worn out, he jumps on a bicycle, and begins a 12 mile trip through mountainous Hawaii. After many hours of peddling, a weary Bill Reeves, math teacher at ORHS, sets off for the final event of the Ironman—a 26.2 mile run.

The Ironman is a race which lasts 17 hours, from seven in the morning until 12 midnight, with lights set up for the night part of the race. Held in Hawaii, the Ironman is the ultimate test of endurance.

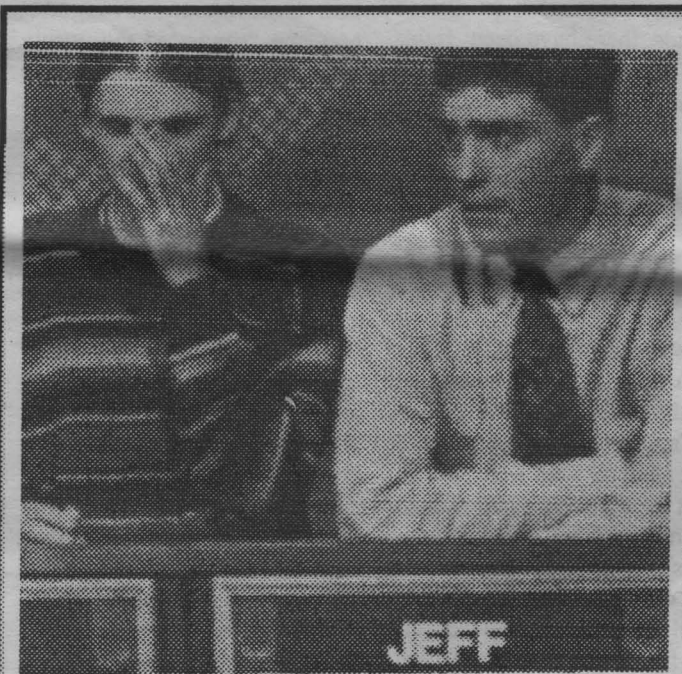
What inspired Bill Reeves to do this? For him it was to set a long term goal, and the thought of a good challenge—"the challenge of making something."

Fifteen hundred people competed in the Ironman, and many did not have the strength to finish. His goal was to be in the top 100, and he beat it with place 91. His time was also bet-

Ironman Continued on Page 6



Mr. Reeves pedals in the 26-mile leg of ironman.



Alec Wood and Jeff Lang wrack their brains in competition.

O.R. LOSES IN SEMI-FINAL

by Greg Friel

The stage is set. Oyster River, down by 100 points to Keene High School, needs a brave comeback in order to advance to the finals of the Granite State Challenge. Show host Jim Jeanotte asks a question late in the 4th round.

"This third vice president." Ding.

"Adrienne from Keene," Jeanotte says.

"Aaron Burr," she answers.

This is how Oyster River fell after three rounds of tough play against Keene High School, in particular, whiz kid "Adrienne," who dominated the challenge competition throughout the tournament.

"Adrienne" also dominated the Trivia Bowl at St. Paul's school, according to ORHS English teacher Richard T.

who was a teacher there this summer.

The final score was 450-320, and according to Kevin Russell, the players were pleased with the overall finish. They got to the semi-final by beating Hanover, St. Thomas, and Epping.

"Eight out of 10 was good, but at that point [in the third round] we were already so far behind in the match that we needed to get all ten in order to have a shot at winning," said Alec Wood.

The third round ended Keene 350 Oyster River 230. "We couldn't make up the difference in the fourth round," said Jessica Tucker-Mohl.

Coach Susan Smith added, "That just goes to show you how one person can dominate a match, and that it's common when you get this far in the tournament."

Barnicle Bites New Hampshire, New Hampshire Bites Back

by Jen Winslow and Ted Olsen

In a recent commentary in the Boston Globe, Mike Barnicle described the best looking females in New Hampshire as those who trim their mustaches. Many readers have had strong reactions to the numerous generalizations he made in his column comparing Vermont and New Hampshire.

Science teacher Mr. Knight was one of many in the Oyster River High School community who took issue with Barnicle's column. "I'm angered when I see inaccurate writing that emphasizes inaccurate stereotypes."

Among these stereotypes were attacks at the language spoken in New Hampshire as being "a contorted form of gibberish," and that Saturday nights here are spent in "debate over whether to bathe for the week ahead." He also pointed out that "Granite State natives are a mentally-challenged lot of easily confused white people who think buildings with elevators qualify as tourist attractions..."

Mike Barnicle has been a commentator for the Boston

Globe for over a decade. He lives and writes in Massachusetts and is well known for his liberal views. New Hampshire has been a predominantly conservative state for well over 100 years of Republican rule while Massachusetts has been a liberal led state of Democratic leaders since the Depression. Barnicle expressed an extreme criticism toward conservatives, using New Hampshire as an example. Vermont has taken on the image of being a "granola" state, with businesses such as Ben & Jerry's support-

ing many liberal causes.

Most ORHS students interviewed were angered by what he

had to say. "I think he's arrogant and did it all for attention," stated junior Ashley Brown. "It was wrong for him to make assumptions about people when he didn't even take the time to meet them," said Krista Poole, also a junior.

There were also those who didn't have as much of a problem with Barnicle's statements. Junior Ben Hamby explained, "I agree with Barnicle in that Vermont is a much better place to live; the scenery, the people - overall it's a much better place. But women do not have full grown mustaches."

While most people interviewed found some-

thing negative to say about the column, others weren't affected by it. Science teacher Mr. Perry didn't exactly agree with Barnicle, but wasn't as bothered by it as many N.H. citizens were. "The fact that we can't laugh at ourselves is a sad state of affairs," he said. "People have become too fragile."

Social studies teacher Mr. Mroz noticed how Barnicle had left his own home state out of the picture. Mroz expressed agreement and disagreement in relation to the opinions of Barnicle. "I have to agree with him in that, at least through my reality, we are a very conservative state, but even with all its faults I'd rather live here than Massachusetts."

If you have any pride in New Hampshire or are just curious as to exactly what Mike Barnicle had to say, pick up a copy of the article in Mr. Tappan's room, #113. You'll be amused or incensed, guaranteed.



"The Stage Door"



Dec. 8, 9, 10
7:30 pm

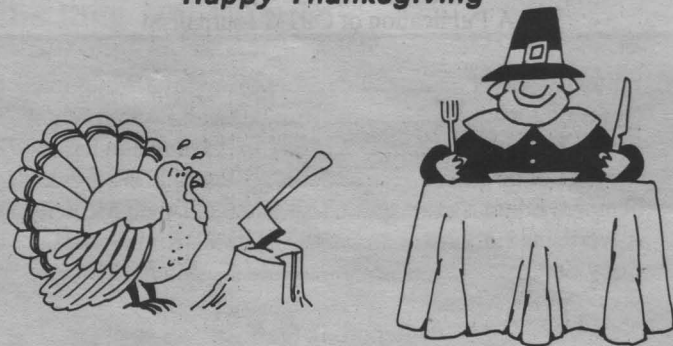
Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$ 4

Students: \$ 3

Reserved \$ 5

Happy Thanksgiving



From Mouth of the River

More Money for PerfORMing Arts?

by Jessica Tucker-Mohl

the end of October, the school board was presented with new ideas about funding for the arts throughout the Oyster River School District. Friends of PerfORMance, a parent/community group, has designed a proposal asking for major improvements in stage lighting, some new musical equipment, and increased funding for coaches for drama, among other requests.

The claims of Friends of PerfORMance used budget figures attained from school records showing a large disparity in funding for out of school arts programs and funding for sports. The amount of money for student use in the drama and music programs and literary publications, which covers makeup, costumes, the spring musical, and more, totals \$4,350. Athletic money, which is used for fees, transportation, uniforms, referees, equipment, administrative support, etc., is more than 12 times the amount for arts, at \$55,586.

According to ORHS' athletic director, Mr. David Nichols, sixty-five percent of the student body participated in athletics last year. Compared to listings of students in printed drama and music programs (six plays and three music concerts), approximately 175 students or approximately 31% of last year's student body participated in drama and music at ORHS. A figure just under half the sports involve-

ment.

Mr. Tappan, who has directed about fifty-two plays at ORHS, said, "We have to turn away many students who come for try-outs. If we could offer more plays, we would have even more participating."

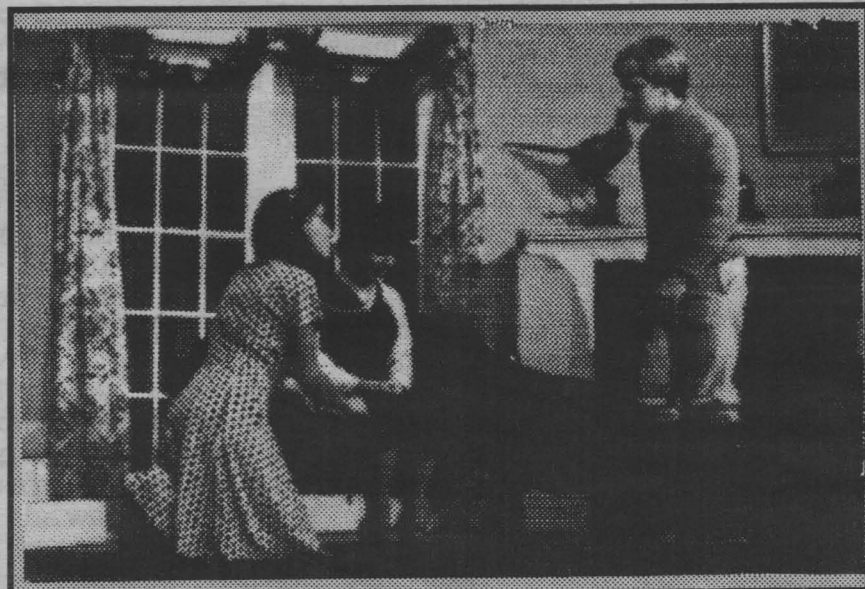
Gail Kelley, a member of Friends of PerfORMance, said that the board was very receptive to these ideas and sees justification for the proposals. She feels that arts and sports are equally important and doesn't want a conflict. She would like to see the arts programs include more people, "not just people involved in the arts, but people who enjoy them: the listeners and appreciators."

A federal program entitled "Arts 2000" lists a set of guidelines for making arts education part of the core curriculum. States that comply with these guidelines will receive federal funding. Ms. Kelley feels that the possibility of arts being on the same level as

math and English in Oyster River is "not off the wall."

Sarah Tanguay, the secretary of the Performing Arts Council and also a participant in several sports, doesn't think that equal funding is realistic. She thinks that in the high school, "the emphasis is on sports. The arts and music are ignored." She and Ms. Kelley both would like to see extra-curricular arts programs scheduled at more convenient times.

Ms. Kelley, who writes an arts and humanities education column in the N.H. section of the Boston Globe and is a mother of two children in the school system, said, "OR is in an excellent position to have a top notch program, not only because of the talent but because of the teachers." She cited Mr. Ervin, Mr. LaForce, and Mr. Childs as examples of teachers who are highly regarded in their fields throughout the state.



A 1981 production of "Harvey" is among over 150 plays performed on the OR stage since the school opened in 1964.

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OP/ED

Editorial: Give Independent Studies The Credit They Deserve!

Over the past couple of years, there has been an increased interest in the independent studies. These courses, which go above and beyond the standard curriculum, have one major flaw: The pass-fail grading system, where if you do well in the course you get...A "P".

A "P"? A "P"?!! What is that "P"? According to ORHS grading regulations, a "P" stands for "Passing." Wow, what an exhilarating experience. Here our young scholar has supposedly reached beyond the limits of standard education, and his efforts earn him a letter grade that only means "at least I didn't fail."

Now, for some reason or another, when the independent study was created, it seems that in order to keep with the novelty of the idea, the creator decided that a grade would not be necessary, since the novelty of the idea speaks for itself. Wrong. There are two very important and distinct reasons why this is not acceptable. For one, we're taking a class that may occupy as

much of our time as any other class, and yet it cannot be used to help raise our GPA or be included as one of the five mandatory classes that all juniors and seniors must take. This is even more detrimental to the young scholar when he cannot drop classes that he is doing poorly in because the independent study is not a "real class."

Secondly, since ORHS has not yet moved into the future of a no-grade grading system, that little "P" next to our "A's" or "B's" or "D's" means almost nothing. Again, let's think for a second: A "P" is passing, yet so is a "D". This means that all we can expect in return from the independent study is knowing that, theoretically, at least we got a "D," which theoretically also means that we did only 70% of the work that was given to us.

So to those of you who wish expand your minds, do so with caution. For unless the higher powers in this learning institution of ours realize that the non-traditional students deserve the same opportunities as conventional students, you must consider the consequences carefully.



Commentary

by Jessica Tucker-Mohl

My bathroom is like a jungle. You could find mangoes and papaya and peppermint and honeysuckle. There is seaweed in my shower and coconut in my cabinet. I am talking, of course, about the natural products that my sister and I have acquired over the past year - facial scrubs and foot lotions and shampoos, all containing exotic ingredients.

This is not just a phenomenon particular to us. Many people buy products with organic images, whether it is a pencil made from rainforest wood or rosemary, kelp and almond shampoo. This trend towards natural products is not the problem that I see. I have a problem with the

When "Natural" is Only a Put-On

fact that these products are purchased only for their image and that often, they are no better or sometime are even worse than their synthetic counterparts.

Snapple is a perfect example. Snapple is everywhere. Everyone loves Snapple. The company has grown rich from promoting its "all natural" image. Flavors such as Mango Madness and Kiwi-Strawberry Cocktail have lured many with their out-of-the-ordinary ingredients. But if you read the list of ingredients, Snapple is only 10% juice.

Image is everything, when it comes to buying a product. There is a brand of iced tea called Chaos Iced Tea, which comes in double

sized cans (24 oz. instead of 12 oz), and has nifty designs on it. Two of my friends bought one, and I had a sip. I thought it was terrible. After they had drank part of it, both were laughing because they thought it was gross also. "I don't care," one said, "at least the can is cool."

When are we going to stop being concerned with appearances and focus on quality? I know I haven't really learned. I saw ads for Frootopia on TV and I just had to try one. I was completely drawn in by the new age background music and kaleidoscopic images and the cool flavor names (Lemonade Love and Hope.) It tasted awful and I didn't even finish it.

Natural cont. on pg.5

A Publication of ORHS Journalism

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Can You Judge a Book by Its Cover?

by Ben Hamby

Most teenagers get very annoyed when people judge them by their clothes or hair. How many people label the long-haired and tie-dyed as "left-wingers", hippies and tree-huggers? How many assume that the preppy, J. Crew types are all good republicans? The fact is, the great majority of people have pre-conceived notions established about the views of others, according to what they look like.

In a recent survey, the political views of thirty Oyster River students and five faculty members were judged, without their knowledge, according to their hair style and the clothes they were wearing. The actual political views of these people was then recorded. The purpose was to determine whether there is a relationship between the way someone appears and the way they think.

These were the questions used to determine the political views of the people who were surveyed:

1. Are you a liberal, moderate or conservative?

2. Are you a Democrat, Republican or Independent?

3. Do you oppose the legalization of marijuana?

4. Are you in favor of Gun Control?

5. Do you support the use of Death Penalty?

6. Are you Pro-Choice or Anti-Choice?

Before the above questions were asked, the students and faculty members were classified according to their hair style, on a rating from one to seven, one being the epitome of conventionalism and seven being extremely radical. Out of the 35 surveyed, the ratings spanned from '2'-'7'.

Of the five people pre-rated a "two" on the scale, all turned out to be Democrats and voiced liberal opinions to the questions. Out of the thirteen people surveyed who were rated a "6", one person was a Conservative-Republican, but also expressed liberal viewpoints and the rest were all either Liberal-Democrat or Moderate-Independent, with answers leaning to the liberal side.

Oyster River High School is a "Drug Free" school zone right? We hate to break it to everybody,



but it looks as if the students in this school are Pro-Hemp. To the question "Do you oppose the legalization of marijuana?", the answer was a resounding "no", while only three people out of the 35 answered "yes". Those three students were rated 3 (somewhat conservative) on the hair scale and when asked, they also considered themselves Republicans. Even the five faculty members who were surveyed answered "no", they did not oppose the legalization of marijuana.

We're all individuals, right? You can't judge a book by its cover, right? Following this line of thinking, we would have to agree that no one can predict another person's social or political views by the way they wear their hair or the way they dress.

Relax, Freshmen, Your Time Will Come

Commentary by Sarah Varney

Attention Seniors! Well we made it, three down, one to go. Did you think this year would ever come? I know I didn't. Do you remember our freshman year? Do you remember how little and young and squeaky clean we used to be (or most of us anyway!)? Do you remember your first day of high school? Do you remember how cool you felt that you were finally a big high school kid? Do you also remember how nervous you were, how completely scared you were and how enormous the seniors seemed? I can remember it like it was yesterday.

Fortunately, we don't feel like that anymore. We're big, we're bad, we're seniors! We've been here the longest (and are itching to get out) and it is because of this fact we feel that we have a sense of authority over certain members of our student body. (If you said the freshmen, you get a cookie.) Now you can't deny that you haven't, even if it was just once and in a joking manner, referred to the freshmen as lower

life forms. I don't think anyone could say they haven't without sharing some similar characteristics of Pinocchio (and I don't mean wooden legs). Everybody has; it's like an unwritten law.

Now I realize that the freshmen might be getting a little fed up with the FROSH remarks everytime they turn around and being forced to lug the sporting equipment to and fro' when nobody else will lift a finger to help out. We know how you feel, we've all been there. But, there is something you freshmen must learn to accept: you are still freshmen, and that's what makes you fun to "play" with.

I'm going to let the freshmen in on a little secret: we seniors, we weren't always as cool as we are now. We too were once little freshmen, constantly being ridiculed and made the butts of everybody's jokes. So, to redeem our shattered egos and rebuild our self-esteem, as seniors we feel it is absolutely necessary to "welcome" you to Oyster River High School, senior style. Don't worry, you only have three years, seven months to go (but who's counting?! Hang in there!

Seniors Offer

Wisdom to ORHS

by T. Olsen + J. Burt
Dear ORHS,

Having entered our final year at Oyster River, with thirteen years under our belts, we feel that we have the credibility to acknowledge the difference between right and wrong. We have been noticing that there is a growing number of wrongs.

Let's start with those particular freshmen who think they're the Mack. Well, actually you aren't and it kind of annoys a few of us who notice you. Yes, you are in high school now, but that doesn't mean you're the King Pin. Lose the ego. Lose the attitude. If you just said to yourself, "Well I don't have an attitude," then guess what - you probably need to take a step back and take a look in the mirror. Your



time as a senior will come - in a few years.

Now, to those of you who have to tilt your head UP to read this because the brim of your hat is pulled down so far, what would you do if you weren't allowed to wear it anymore? Check the dress code at the other schools in the state - you can't wear hats at half of them!

ORHS Cont. on pg 6

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS ARTICLE REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE WRITERS, NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE STAFF OF THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER.

Movie Reviews:

The River Wild, My Life, & Forrest Gump

by Jim Drake

"THE RIVER WILD"

Gail (Meryl Streep), her husband Tom (David Strathairn), and their son Roarke (Joseph Mazzello) are on vacation from Boston to go white water rafting. Shortly into the film, the three meet two men, Wade (Kevin Bacon) and his friend Terry (John C. Reilly). They hijack Streep's raft to escape the law because they robbed a bank and killed a guard. From there the film moves along intensely.

The word "wild" in the "The River Wild," has a couple of different meanings. One meaning, and perhaps the most important, is the way that the film is shot. The director, Curtis Hanson, puts the camera in places that have the greatest effect. In one scene where the raft that Meryl Streep and company are in goes right over the camera placed in the wa-

ter, which creates a really dramatic effect. A second meaning is the acting. In order for Meryl Streep to get into her role she had to be in very good physical condition to be in some of the demanding scenes. Some of the scenes good have been deadly for her.

Although you can almost guess what the ending is going to be like, it's worth going on this wild river ride.

I rate this film * * * * (excellent)

"MY LIFE"

What if you had an incurable cancer and a pregnant wife? Well Bob (Michael Keaton) has to face this when his wife Gail (Nicole Kidman) is pregnant. One thing you could do is videotape your life for your unborn child. This is what Bob did.

This film is a drama based on real-life situations and includes some very touching material that is related to Bob's disease.

In order to understand this

film you have to watch it closely. One negative part about this film is that it is very predictable, but I think that this is a good, sad drama; a movie definitely worth watching.

I rate this film * * * * (good)

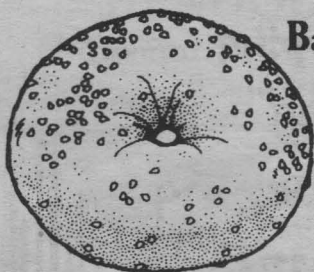
"FORREST GUMP"

Imagine taking on the role of someone who has severe mental problems; that's how Tom Hanks had to act in "Forrest Gump." The role called for Hanks to play the part of a mentally challenged individual named Forrest Gump. To act this way, he had to be able to change his style and range. In the movie, Gump has a very limited intelligence. Therefore trying to play the role was a difficult task for Hanks, due to the strict limitations the character placed on him. I think that this movie is very good and I especially enjoyed the scene when Forrest Gump met John F. Kennedy. Overall, this is a great movie. I rate this movie: * * * * (excellent)

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MOR GOES MODERN

by Alec Wood

The Mouth of the River is moving itself into the electronic age this semester. Starting this issue, the entire paper will be laid out electronically.

In the past, traditional layout methods involved cutting and pasting the many parts of the paper. These methods, dating back to the 1950's, has the disadvantage of being extremely inflexible. If an article was to be moved, it had to be physically removed, cut, and re-pasted. When working with desktop publishing, however, articles can be inserted, moved, or cut with the click of a button.

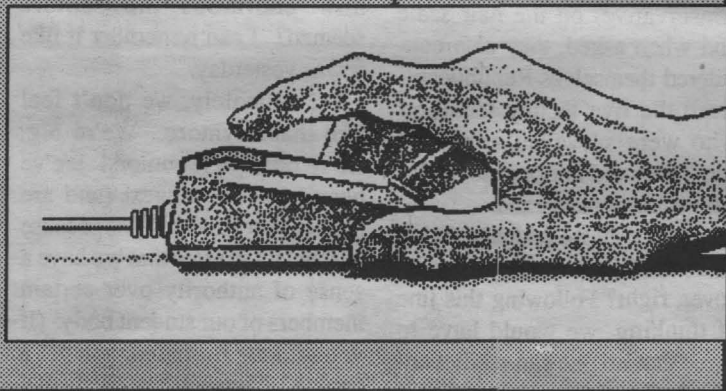
The transition has not been without problems. Stories are typed and stored on an IBM-compatible network, but the PageMaker desktop publishing software is on

a Macintosh computer, which is not IBM compatible. This means that files must be copied, converted, copied again, and imported to PageMaker. With so many steps, keeping track of the latest version of every story is very difficult.

Furthermore, the Mouth of the River does not currently have a way to print Macintosh documents on its laser printer. In the previous issue of the paper, in which two pages were laid out electronically, and then were sent to be printed at Kinko's

Copies. The cost of printing the entire paper this way would be prohibitively high.

The Mouth of the River is purchasing an Apple StyleWriter inkjet printer to solve this problem. Unfortunately, the printer will not arrive until after the paper goes to press. In the meanwhile, Jennifer Bradley-Swift has volunteered to help out. She will print the master pages courtesy of Current Technologies, which is offering the use of its laser printer.



To Be Continued...

O.R. Stats Cont. from pg 2

munities because of the vast population differences," concludes ORHS guidance counselor Roger Hall.

When comparing Oyster River to the state on S.A.T.'s, we rank in a high average score set. When comparing us to the nation we exceed the national average scores. Mr. Hall cautioned about simple comparisons of communities because of variations in the sample groups.

"It's not how we compare to other schools, what's really important is how we do compared to how well we should do," says Dr. Elwell.

In an article in Foster's on Wednesday, Nov. 9, commentator Jon Breen noted the unfairness of comparing schools in terms of S.A.T. scores. He noted that some schools have a small percentage of students taking the S.A.T., and the small elite from that school may do very well and make the school look very good compared to another school where a very high percentage do take the S.A.T.

At Oyster River, the great majority of students does take the S.A.T.

Natural Cont. From pg 4

The decisions on what is trendy at a particular time are made by advertisers. Right now, all natural is in. I resent being told by them that Snapple is the drink to drink because it is "all natural", if you consider high fructose corn syrup as the second ingredient to be natural. I would like to see people be able to judge for themselves what is a quality product and not be force fed images by advertisers.

Fights Cont. From pg 1

an ORHS student. She commented that "The police have no right to ask me for my ID. My parents own that land. My mother said that I had every right to be there."

To some people it seems as though there has been an increase in fights, but Ms. Winterbottom said that the actual number of fights happenig on school grounds has decreased. According to her, last year at this time we had already had 4 fights in school and we have not had any yet this year. Ms. Winterbottom said "I think the letter sent by Ms. Brown and Captain Golding was appropriate," in order to notify the parents of ORHS students of what had taken place at Jackson's Landing. She commented that "some parents couldn't care less" if their kids went to a fight and "some care a lot."

ORHS Cont. from pg 5

Would you feel uncomfortable? Exposed? Think you'd look a little foolish? Would your hair look funny? It would probably look better now than when you're bald from wearing your hat so much. Our advice to you is to take it off once in a while and show us who you really are - a person with a face.

And then there are the x-rated hallways. To us, school is the most unromantic place in the universe, and seeing passionate lip smacks in front of the bathrooms is enough to make us lose our lunch. It's enough to want to transfer. Please - stop the touchy-feely or get out! You don't even try to conceal what should be a private moment. Putting yourselves on show is not necessary. Our advice is to just show some respect for your partner and make your moments a little more special and private. Who knows, your relationship might even improve.

Iman cont. from page 2

ter than he wanted it to be, finishing at 9 hours, 40 minutes, and 17 seconds.

Reeves had been training for a rather short time, only beginning a training program in August, and trying to do all three events as much as possible.

Reeves said, "I may try it again," but doing it once, and finishing is an accomplishment in its own.

JVSoccer Cont. from pg 7

team. Nate Hardy, starting striker, scored approximately 25 of the team's 74 goals.

NEWS BRIEFS

Student Council Training

On October 27, student representatives traveled to Salem High School to participate in a leadership training session for the student council. They were accompanied by Mrs. Parsons. Ted Olsen, Emily Cohen, Aaron Tyler, Lucia Nazzaro, Emma Torbert, Lindsay Dolliver, Chris Merenda, Mike Beland, Erin Bostrom, and Sean Gray were the students who attended the session.



Fall Play Opening

The opening of the play "The Stage Door" has been postponed to December 8 at 7:30p.m. and will run through December 10. Tickets will cost \$3 for students, \$4 for adults, and \$5 for reserved seating. The play is being directed by Maggie Boucher.

Commentary cont. from pg. 4

The decisions on what is trendy at a particular time are made by advertisers. Right now, all natural is in. I resent being told by them that Snapple is the drink to drink because it is "all natural", if you consider high fructose corn syrup as the second ingredient to be natural. I would like to see people be able to judge for themselves what is a quality product and not be force fed images by advertisers.

Outdoor Club

The start of Oyster Rivers first outdoor club in many years has attracted about 20 members. The club's first expedition will be a hike up Mount Chaocorua. You can contact Mr. Mroz if you are interested in joining.



Junior Beth Kraft placed 2nd at the state meet.

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Girls' Cross-Country Finishes 2nd in State

By Christian Mendelsohn

For Oyster River Cross-Country, the season is now over. The girls' team finished second in their class, while the boys finished their season coming in seventh out of 18 teams.

An explanation of this sport may be called for because most people in Oyster River don't know what it is: About every week there is a meet, from three to twenty teams assemble at "invitationals" to race on paths that are about three miles long.

There are S(mall), M(edium), I(ntermediate), and L(arge) categories and we here at O.R. are fit into the I-class; not too big not too small.

All intermediate schools qualify for the I-meet. From there the top five from there advance to the state meet where schools of all sizes are included. The top six finishers from there go on and up to the New England championship where teams from five states gather.

The number of people trying out for the teams has fluctuated over the years. Why? "I think it has to do with peoples' mindsets, that it's not the cool activity. Today, more are concerned about what people think of them," explained boys coach Bob Byrnes, "I don't think many people know what it is about. It is more dynamic—you can't kick the ball to someone else and get rid of the pressure."

In the last Class-I meet the boys cross-country team did not place in the top five and were not

eligible for the New Englands. "We didn't do as well as we wanted to. We were hoping to be in the top five teams in the class-I, but instead we came in seventh," said Junior captain John March. "People didn't run over the summer so we didn't have a good base to start on."

Mr. Byrnes has been the coach of the Bobcats for ten years, leading the boys' team to two class-I championships and six runner-ups, leaving only two years that the Bobcats have not placed in the class-I championships.

The girls, coached by Carol Gephart, have led a full-force team into the State Meet, placing second in the qualifying meet. They planned on making it to the New Englands, but according to Marybeth Nazzaro, the only obstacle was that the larger teams overpower the S/M/I teams because they have a larger number of players which results in "more of a selection." Team member Christy Northrop explains, "if we had gotten really psyched up for this State Meet then we would have done spectacularly."

Elizabeth Kraft had placed fourth in the state, while Brita Hult had come in second for the team but a distant 73 overall. "The problem was the enormous gap between our first and second runners. They were just so far apart," stated Marybeth.

Even with this year's setbacks, boys team member Troy Zezula looks to the future, saying "We'll do better next year. I promise."

Boys' JV Soccer Has Perfect Season

by Hannibal Handy-Goodloe

The boy's JV soccer team has had an impeccable season this year: they made it through the season undefeated. Their final record was 14-0-0.

Eric Lang, the JV goalkeeper kept his opponents scoreless during 11 of the 14 games, having only 4 goals scored against them during the entire season. Two of those goals came from the Hanover

JVSoccer cont. pg 6



Bobcat Carolyn Tryder anticipates an oncoming pass against Timberlane.

New Sports for O.R.H.S.?

by Cozette Carroll & Erin Kelley

A survey of approximately 50 people was conducted by the Mouth of the River in order to find out what they would like to see for new sports, and how they rate the athletic program here.

80% of the students surveyed said they were not fully satisfied with the range of the current athletic program. These results raise some questions such as: why O.R. does have a football team.. Should ORHS expand the sports that are offered? And if so, what sports should be added in the coming years? According to students the three most popular of possibly sports were: football at 69%, lacrosse at 62% and skiing at 51%. Other sports include: crew at 44%, mountain biking at 36% and wrestling at 27%.

"With the population increasing over the next few years, we need to add to our program, and to continue to grow in the number of sports offered at ORHS," said Dave Nichols, director

of athletics. According to Mr. Nichols several of the reasons football does not exist at ORHS are that: We need two fields(separate from the field hockey and soccer fields.) One for practices and one for games. There would have to be a feeder program to start the kids off young, for an experienced team and to prevent less injury.

Lacrosse is a fairly "new" sport and hasn't yet been established in many schools. Mr. Nichols has been looking into the possibility of starting a team in the next few years.

Skiing has always been a questionable program at ORHS because students would have to miss school for the competitions. And academics are more important than sporting events. But what happened to the 1972 championship ski team? If it has worked in the past, it should work now.

With the growing population at ORHS is more important than ever to get the students involved in sports. According to Nichols, "It keeps them involved and gives them motivation and keeps them off the streets."

Field Hockey Makes Playoffs

by Brian Cartier

The Bobcat field hockey team wrapped up the season with a record of 3-12. When they entered the playoffs tied for sixteenth place with Milford, they were unfairly pitted against number one seeded Monadnock. Unfortunately, they lost their most challenging game 7-0. Tri-captain Megan Frazer said the game "doesn't reflect how well we played."

As the season got well underway, the team began to pull themselves together. Members on the team say that next season should be better than this year because by that time, everyone will have had a chance to get to know each other. Unfortunately, the team will be losing ten starting seniors, including captains Kathy Morong, Meadow Lang, and Megan Frazer. Christy Tryder described the season, "It was rough at the beginning; we had a new coach. She didn't know us, and we didn't know her. There wasn't a great effort. No one

wanted to come to the practices, but the whole team would show up for the games."

According to team members, during the season, Coach Paula Renaud was a strong motivator and instructor. She is currently studying sports medicine at UNH. Hopefully, with the experience that Renaud has gained this year, she will lead the team to greater heights next season.



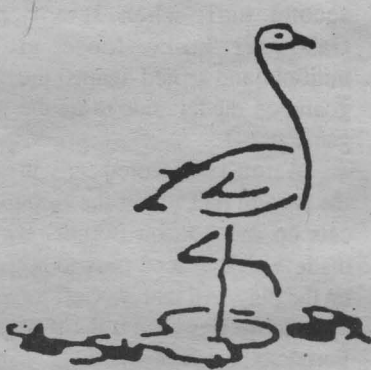
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O.R. Sports

Page 8

Mouth of the River

November 18, 1994

Issue 2



Girls' Volleyball: Champs Again!

by S. Dahlgren + N. Hardy

The girls' varsity volleyball team is off to a winning season once again with an amazing record of 12-0. With the loss of four seniors (three of whom were starters) and none returning this year, the volleyball team has had to do a little adjusting. Junior tri-captains, Jess Houle, Amy Howell and Krista Poole are the three returning starters from last year's state championship team.

"The lack of seniors has forced everybody to become leaders," stated Jess Houle, "we've only had two years to prepare for the role of captain. Past captains have had three years."

Seniors or no seniors, the Bobcats are certainly continuing the tradition of excellence at Oys-

ter River. All three captains said that there was "an incredible amount of talent on the team." Their coach, Ed Sharon, fully agrees with them. "This team is physically more talented, more serious and more intense than teams I've coached here in the past."

And how has the team responded to its young captains? New comer to the Bobcats is junior Sara Smith who stated "it's strange being on a team with no seniors, but the juniors are doing a great job."

"The team respects us just as much as if we were seniors," stated Jess Houle.

Krista Poole commented, "I think they respect us even more

because we are much closer in age and can relate better."

"With our team it doesn't matter who's older, it's just a bunch of girls who want to play," Amy Howell added.

This talented team consists of sophomores Jess Garvey, Katie Jentes, Erin Kelley, Meegan Smith and Stacey Shaheen and other junior member, Thania Johns.

The Oyster River girls' volleyball team will not be losing anybody for next year. Tri-captain, Jess Houle commented, "Next year's team will be incredible. It will be the same team with a year of experience playing together."

O.R. Hockey Homeless: Athletic Dept. Searching for Ice Time

by Carolyn Tryder

"What, there isn't going to be a hockey team this year?" Well, well, well, what do you know, another great Oyster Rumor. The truth is, the ORHS varsity hockey team will be playing in a rink near you; or maybe not so near.

In early September the UNH athletic department made the final decision to tear down Snively Arena, and build a bigger, more improved athletic center. In doing this, they left their

own hockey team, as well as Oyster River's, with no place to practice or play. Unlike UNH's, OR's luck hasn't been so great in finding somewhere else to go. The team and their fans may have to travel as far as Rochester to see and play a home game, and as close to Dover for some others.

Since last spring, UNH has been debating whether or not they wanted to tear Snively down. When this proposal was made, Oyster River's athletic director, Mr. David Nichols, was forced to start making plans for the 1994-95 hockey season. "We have put

requests for time in at Rochester, Dover, and Exeter" explained Nichols. So far only Rochester has given the team any practice time, and they are scheduled to play a few games at each rink. Because the UNH team also needed ice, they have taken a lot of available time away from these rinks, making it nearly impossible for OR to get any around here. Although Rochester has helped in giving the team time to practice, Bobcats' hockey is now faced with the difficulty of early morning practices, and some parents are upset with the idea of their

children traveling that far every morning. The idea of a bus to take the team to practices has been raised, but the funding remains a major obstacle according to the athletic director.

When the team played at Snively, they had to pay a \$350 ice rental fee. The cost to rent ice time is now nearly \$7400 for both a JV and varsity program. The total sum to support the hockey program is now \$12,764 needed for a full program, only \$4951 has been budgeted. This would include transportation to games, coaches, officials, and the ice

time.

Mr. Nichols seemed very sure that a sports fee levied on students was out of the question. "The superintendent does not approve of sporting fees...we're going to have to look into fund-raising activities." The department had made a proposal for the money to the school board, but has not yet been answered. If hockey doesn't receive the full funding, the program may run without a JV program, and two games against Portsmouth may be out of the schedule, because Oyster River lacks an arena.

Boys' Soccer Makes it to Semi-Finals

by Brad Taylor and Gordon Mathews

The boys soccer team's season ended November 9, in the semi-finals, with a dramatic 1-0 overtime loss to number one ranked Con-Val. The Bobcats finished the season with a record of 13-6, falling short of their pre-season goal of winning the state championship.

"We dominated almost the whole game," said sophomore Mike Beland. "The difference was that we couldn't capitalize on our scoring chances, and they were able to score on one of their few good opportunities." Both teams played hard throughout, and the game was deadlocked at 0-0 going into overtime. It remained scoreless after the first overtime, but in the second overtime Con-Val was able to score with just two minutes left. "Even after they scored, we never gave up," commented Beland, "We always felt we still had a chance."

The boys' team had won an exciting 1-0 game on November 3 against Kennett, to advance to the quarter-finals of the state tournament. During the last leg of the first half, Ryan Bellabona scored. With the win, the Bobcats improved their overall record to 12-



Win Puffer fights for a loose ball against Goffstown

5. It was the last home game for the seniors, and they made sure that they would graduate with a fond memory. "We had the game wired from the start," said senior Jeff Farrell.

"The game demonstrated to us how well we will do further in the playoffs," said Beland.

"A battlefield," was the only way to describe the October 26 game against St. Thomas, according to Beland. The Bobcats lost a thrilling 3-2 overtime game to the number two team in the state, St. Thomas.

The team trailed 1-0 in the

second half, when Jeremy Gasowski broke loose at midfield and scored against the goalie on the left side to tie the game at 1-1.

Aaron Tyler scored early in the second half to put the Bobcats up 2-1. Jason Berndtson made a well-placed pass to set up the play. All that was left for Tyler to do was head it in off of Berndtson's pass.

"We felt confident after our second goal, and we tried to control the ball to protect our lead," commented Beland.

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL FINISHES STRONG

by Marie Brulotte and Winthrop Puffer

The boys volleyball team ended the season on the up side this year, finishing second in the state tournament.

The team started the season 1-3 and went into the state tournament 8-5. The team has shown great improvement since last year when they finished last.

To explain the improvement, senior co-captain Chris Davis said, "The team played together more as a unit, and everyone was important." Senior Josh Jenkins added, "We played as a team and we liked the way it felt to win."

In addition to team togetherness, the advancement of the team from last year could be because "the other teams lost valuable seniors." Sophomore Greg Friel suggests, "We did better this year because we were a year more experienced and that experience made us more confident. The

addition of Josh Jenkins also helped the team, because of his spirited play." This was Josh's first season on the team.

Since Josh Jenkins and Chris Davis are graduating, they will need to be replaced. According to Greg Friel, sophomore Pete Beck will probably replace Chris while Josh's position is open as there is no other backup setter on the team.

The team seems to have a positive outlook for next season even though they'll be losing two senior starters as well as senior players Jared McKenna, Michael Chance, and Garry Seid. The returning starters Ben Rous, Carl Seid and Stephan Cline should keep the team strong with the aid of Bob Simmons and Dave Jackson. Josh Jenkins thinks, "Maybe more people will try out [next season]," and "People will stop laughing at boys' volleyball now that we're not last anymore."